

Determine socioeconomic impacts

Problem Statement

With severe restrictions on fishing quotas, there is a tremendous need for economic analyses of management options and development of long-term strategies for economically-viable management approaches.

Critical Factors

- Many groundfish stocks have been overfished and are in severe decline.
- Current management practices must change in order to rebuild overfished stocks.
- Potential responses to severe declines generally do not consider economic impact or cost.
- Economic analyses of management options are needed to develop improved management regimes and assist economically-depressed communities.

Status of Research

Statutory requirements dictate that research must be conducted on the potential socioeconomic impacts resulting from proposed and potential fishery management practices. Severe declines in a number of West Coast groundfish stocks necessitate that measures be implemented which will maintain the total catch of designated species within established biological limits while achieving a fair distribution of economic benefits from that resource. To this end, researchers at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) are analyzing information on current and historical operating costs and activity patterns of various constituent groups involved in the fishing industry (e.g., commercial fishers, processing centers). Such analyses indicate the manner in which each group would be economically impacted by changes in gear use and area restrictions, limits on individual catch, and/or direct catch allocation between user groups.



Commercial vessel moorage
at Newport, Oregon

Future Considerations

As additional funding becomes available, Center researchers will develop new economic models and analyses that can provide additional input into the Fishery Management Council decision-making process and completion of required regulatory reviews.

Key Players

Fishery Resource Analysis & Monitoring (FRAM) Division, NWFSC
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Pacific Fishery Management Council
University of Washington
Oregon State University

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